

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for providing procurement
2 services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 establishing in a computer database a user profile for
5 associating acceptable accounting and system controls
6 to each person authorized by a customer company to
7 access said procurement services;

8 associating each said company with a company group of
9 related companies;

10 providing common code defining workflow components
11 common to all companies within said company group,
12 including accounting validation and approval
13 processing;

14 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
15 company and company group so as to define said controls

16 based on company and company group;

17 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
18 among said users a resource profile in a computer
19 database specifying for each resource those said
20 companies to have access to and share said procurement
21 resource; and

22 responsive to said user profile and said resource
23 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
24 resources.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of providing said procurement resources in a front-
3 end catalog and requisition server.

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 receiving a user request from a first client browser to
4 log in to said front-end server;

5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface
6 at said client browser only to procurement resources

7 authorized by said user profile and said resource
8 profiles.

1 4. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract
6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from
9 each said company group.

1 5. [Original] The method of claim 4, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific
5 contract for goods or services.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 7. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including a vendor catalog.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including a blanket order procurement contract for
3 goods or services.


1 9. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including a user profile table.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including costs centers.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including accounting general ledger codes with
3 company group specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 12. [Currently amended] System for providing procurement
2 services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising:
3 a front end server;

4 a user profile associating acceptable accounting and
5 system controls for each person authorized by a
6 customer company to access said procurement services;

7 each said company associated with a company group of
8 related companies;

9 common code defining workflow components common to all
10 companies within said company group, including
11 accounting validation and approval processing;

12 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
13 company and company group so as to define said controls
14 based on company and company group;

15 a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among
16 said users;

17 a resource profile for each said procurement resource
18 specifying those said companies to have access to and
19 share said procurement resource; and

20 said user profile and said resource profiles for
21 controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1 13. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement
2 resources further comprising:

3 vendor catalog;

4 a blanket order procurement contract for goods or
5 services; and

6 a table of user profiles.

1 14. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement
2 resources further comprising:

3 costs centers; and

4 accounting general ledger codes with company group
5 specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 15. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 providing procurement services to a plurality of customer
5 companies, said method steps comprising:

6 establishing a user profile for associating acceptable
7 accounting and system controls to each person
8 authorized by a customer company to access said
9 procurement services;

10 associating each said company with a company group of
11 related companies;

12 providing common code defining workflow components
13 common to all companies within said company group,
14 including accounting validation and approval
15 processing;

16 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
17 company and company group so as to define said controls
18 based on company and company group;

19 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
20 among said users a resource profile specifying for each
21 resource those said companies to have access to and
22 share said procurement resource; and

23 responsive to said user profile and said resource
24 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

25 resources.

1 16. [Original] The program storage device of claim 15,
2 said method steps further comprising providing said
3 procurement resources in a front-end catalog and requisition
4 server.

1 17. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 B 1 receiving a user request from a first client browser to
4 log in to said front-end server;
5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface
6 at said client browser only to procurement resources
7 authorized by said user profile and said resource
8 profiles.

1 18. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract

6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from
9 each said company group.

1 19. [Original] The program storage device of claim 18, said
2 method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 B 1 | leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific
5 contract for goods or services.

1 20. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 21. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1 22. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including a blanket order

3 procurement contract for goods or services.

1 23. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including a user profile table.

1 24. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including costs centers.

1 25. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including accounting general
3 ledger codes with company group specific accounting rules
4 and defaults.

1 26. [Currently amended] A computer program product or
2 computer program element for providing procurement services
3 to a plurality of customer companies according to method
4 steps comprising:

5 establishing a user profile for associating acceptable
6 accounting and system controls to each person
7 authorized by a customer company to access said
8 procurement services;

9 associating each said company with a company group of

10 related companies;

11 providing common code defining workflow components
12 common to all companies within said company group,
13 including accounting validation and approval
14 processing;

15 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
16 company and company group so as to define said controls
17 based on company and company group;

18 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
19 among said users a resource profile specifying for each
20 resource those said companies to have access to and
21 share said procurement resource; and

22 responsive to said user profile and said resource
23 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
24 resources.